

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus.

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Editorial

Have You Made An Effort?

It will be observed that the subscription list is not creeping up very rapidly. Brethren, we have offered you an excellent opportunity to enlarge the list, will you make a little *personal* effort? We are trying to help you in *your* work, will you help *us*? True, you are looking after the interests of the local congregation, and the mission work of your district and that of the brotherhood at large, but please remember also that the EVANGELIST is the medium thru which these interests are constantly kept before the brotherhood. The columns of the paper are open for your announcements, and it gives us pleasure always to serve you editorially and thru personal reference to your work. Kindly enable us to serve you better by enlarging the subscription list to the BRETHREN EVANGELIST.

The Church of the Living God

On September 16, 1900, Rev. Lyman Abbott preached a sermon in the Old South Church, Boston, from the text: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. The entire discourse is published in the Outlook of March 9, 1901, and while we can not accept all the statements of the speaker, yet certain paragraphs set forth vital truth so beautifully that we take the liberty to reprint them. The several divisions of the subject are happily chosen. Among the various instruments that Jesus uses to give this life to the world are, (1) The Church, (2) The Bible, and (3) Christ himself. Would that the church would always and everywhere be just what Doctor Abbott sets forth it ought to be in the following paragraphs:

The church is like a river; the figure is Biblical. The river rises in the mountains and comes flowing down over the rocks, dancing and singing in the glee of its early youth; it comes to the mill-pond, reservoirs there its forces, and drives the busy wheel that grinds out the grist which feeds a thousand families; it flows to the lower levels, and forms pools where the boys come when work is done and plunge within the water and come out refreshed and cleansed by the bath; it flows on into the great meadows, and waters a thousand blades of grass and the roots of a thousand trees that do not so much as know of its presence; and so it goes on to the sea. Like that is the Church of God; now singing glad songs in the sunlight of God's love, now driving the busy wheels of philanthropic and humane industry, now forming great bathing-places where, Sunday after Sunday,

you and I come and get our bath and go away cleansed, refreshed, invigorated, helped, and, beyond that, feeding with its beneficence a thousand men and women who either do not know of its existence or know of it only to scoff. How many hospitals or asylums or public philanthropies of any kind would there be if there were no churches? How much honor and integrity, how much honesty and uprightness, how much trust and confidence, if there were none of these reservoirs from which the springs of life are furnished?

The church is the church of God. It receives its life from him. It gives its life out thru individual work, thru institutional work, thru the preached word, thru many ministers. No church deserves to be called a church of Christ that is not, in its time and place and generation, a life-giver. I wonder what would become of New England if it should ever lose its churches. They tell me that people are not going to church as much as they used to in New England. They tell me that in the hillside towns the churches are falling into decay because men and women frequent them no longer. They tell me that in the great cities men and women are beginning to forego church privileges and forget church duties. I do not know whether this be true or not; I have learned to distrust somewhat the vague and general statements that are not founded on accurate observation. But this I know: it is not more certain that forest fires will sweep the hillside, and meadow fires the meadows, when the wells and springs dry up, than that death and devastation would come upon this fair, beloved New England of ours if ever the springs of its life, the Christian churches, should lose their vitalizing power, should be forgotten and allowed to drop into ruin. I know the faults of the church! I know its follies, its divisions, its coldness, its persecuting spirit, its apathy. But, spite of all, tell me where in human history there is such an organization of men and women, or ever has been, bound together by so splendid a loyalty, holding so heartily the great, fundamental faith in God, in the invisible world, and the living Christ the revelation of them both, and working with an unselfish purpose in the world's redemption, as is to be found in Christ's Church. It is a life-giver.

New Century Dangers—Who Is Right?

As the old century was drawing to a close, the press, both religious and secular, was filled with predictions as to what the new century would bring forth,—the new problems that would naturally force themselves upon us, the new opportunities that would come to us, and the dangers that would grow out of the complicated social and political question. The *Christian Budget*, of London, received and published replies to the question as to what is the chief danger, social and political, confronting the new century. Here are